

member of the Helsinki Commission and Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

While serving in this capacity, I missed rollcall votes 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102 and 103. Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted the following way: On 93, yes; 94, yes; 95, yes; 96, yes; 97, no; 98, no; 99, no; 100, no; 101, no; 102, no; and 103, no.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3113

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3113. It was erroneously included.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I would like to address during my 5 minutes the Armenian genocide. Today, of course, is April 24. The Armenian genocide began over 85 years ago, on April 24 in 1915. Why are we here? Why am I? The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), who is the cochair of the Armenian Caucus, is with me who has been a champion over the years of trying to bring an Armenian genocide recognition resolution to the floor of the House and to the Congress so that we finally would pass it. We are here because we feel very strongly that the Armenian genocide has not been properly recognized in the U.S. House, in this Congress and also by the President.

There is no need, I guess, to go into the reasons. We all know the reasons. And they are that the Turkish Government is very strenuous in its opposition and constantly exerts pressure on the President, on the Congress, on the leadership of the Houses not to bring a resolution up that would recognize the genocide.

I have maintained for years that that is a huge mistake on the part of the Turkish Government to use that kind of leverage against our Government, in part because the fact of the matter is the genocide occurred and it is a huge mistake to try to cover it up. We know that if genocide occurs and it is covered up, it will occur again. History tells us that. But beyond that, it is also a mistake because until the time

comes when the Turkish Government is willing to recognize the genocide, there never will be what I call the cleansing effect that Turkey needs to go through with its leaders and with its population to make sure that they recognize this horrible series of events, and they do not have the events reoccur, that they do not continue to persecute minorities, including the Armenian minority that still exists in a very minimum amount in the state of Turkey today.

What we have done this year is the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) and I within the Armenian Caucus have circulated a letter asking President Bush tomorrow to use the word "genocide" and recognize the genocide in his address that he and other Presidents have done now for many years. President Bush to his credit has been a friend of Armenia and a friend of U.S.-Armenia relations and the two countries growing closer together. During his campaign, he repeatedly made statements about the Armenian genocide and used the term "genocide." Unfortunately, like his predecessors, both Democrat and Republican, once they took office we do not see the word "genocide" used.

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We do ask the President, we do call upon him tomorrow when he commemorates and when he issues a statement about the Armenian genocide, to use the term "genocide" because, in fact, it was a purposeful, intentional State act that occurred in 1915. It was not a coincidence. It was not a mishap. It was not a civil war. It was an intentional act on the part of the then Turkish Government to perpetrate a genocide against the Armenian people.

We have, I believe, 163 cosponsors of that letter to the President. We have another 5 or 10 Members on a bipartisan basis who sent similar letters on their own, individually, to the President asking that he do so, and I hope sincerely that he does tomorrow.

Let me say this, though. The issue of the genocide is important not only because of the past and because we do not want to repeat the mistakes of the past, but also because the actions of the Turkish Government today continue to perpetrate the genocide. As I mentioned, there are not that many Armenians who are now living in Turkey, but there are a few thousand, and those people that live there today continue to be discriminated against. The Turkish Government makes it very difficult for them to practice their Christian Armenian orthodox religion. There are limitations on their ability to open Armenian schools and teach the Armenian language and Armenian culture. They still face problems in terms of owning property, and their inability to own property or to buy and sell property.

One of the most egregious examples of this took place just in the last few months when two Armenian Ameri-

cans, American citizens, were encouraged by the Turkish Government to purchase a hotel for tourism purposes in Van, which is the area where many Armenians historically lived. This couple, after they had opened the hotel and purchased the hotel, were basically told to get out. They were told that they would not be reimbursed for this hotel and for their property. They have not been able to operate the hotel. They have not been able to essentially do anything with their business. They have lost their business, they have lost their investment, because the Turkish Government found out that they were of Armenian dissent. Myself and others within our Caucus have sent a letter to the U.S. Ambassador objecting to this.

I want to conclude now, Mr. Speaker, but I just want to say that the genocide continues and the perpetrators of the genocide continue to make it difficult, even for Armenians who live in Turkey, to continue to operate as legitimate citizens.

COMMEMORATION OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) is recognized for 5 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, as a Republican cochair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I come to the floor on this very special and important day to join my colleagues and individuals around the world in commemorating the 87th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. We must never forget the tragedy of the Armenian genocide, and this commemoration makes an important contribution to making sure that we never do.

I would like to commend my colleague and fellow cochair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), for working with me to help arrange this commemoration, and I appreciate his remarks.

Our Caucus is now up to 114 Members, which I believe shows the incredible support Armenia has in the U.S. House of Representatives. We also, of course, wrote a letter, and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) referenced the letter with over 160 signatures that went to the President.

When most people hear the word "genocide," they immediately think of Hitler and his persecution of the Jews during World War II. Many individuals are unaware that the first genocide of

the 20th century occurred during World War I and was perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire against the Armenian people. Concerned that the Armenian people would move to establish their own government, the Ottoman Empire embarked on a reign of terror that resulted in the massacre of over 1.5 million Armenians. This atrocious crime began on April 15, 1915, when the Ottoman Empire arrested, exiled, and eventually killed hundreds of Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders.

Once they had eliminated the Armenian people's leadership, they turned their attention to the Armenians serving in the Armenian Army. These soldiers were disarmed and placed in labor camps where either they were starved or they were executed. The Armenian people, lacking political leadership and deprived of young, able-bodied men who could fight against the Ottoman onslaught, were then deported from every region of Turkish Armenia. The images of human suffering from the Armenian genocide are graphic and as haunting as the pictures of the Holocaust.

Why then, it must be asked, are so many people unaware of the Armenian genocide? I believe the answer is found in the international community's response to this disturbing event. At the end of World War I, those responsible for ordering and implementing the Armenian genocide were never brought to justice, and the world casually forgot about the pain and suffering of the Armenian people. That proved to be a grave mistake. In a speech made at the beginning of World War II, Adolf Hitler justified his brutal tactics with the infamous statement, "Who today remembers the Armenians?"

Tragically, 6 years later, the Nazis had exterminated 6 million Jews. Never has the phrase, "Those who forget the past will be destined to repeat it" been more applicable. If the international community had spoken out against this merciless slaughtering of the Armenian people instead of ignoring it, the horrors of the Holocaust might never have taken place.

As we commemorate the 87th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, I believe it is time to give this event its rightful place in history. This afternoon and this evening, let us pay homage to those who fell victim to the Ottoman oppressors and tell the story of the forgotten genocide. For the sake of the Armenian heritage, it is a story that must be heard.

COMMEMORATING THE 87TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 87th anniversary of the Armenian genocide and

to commend my colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), for organizing this Special Order and to remember this solemn occasion.

Over an 8-year period, beginning in 1915, the Ottoman Turkish Empire systematically tortured and murdered 1.5 million Armenians and exiled another half million more. In the years since, Armenian descendants have thrived in the United States and in many other countries, bringing extraordinary vitality and achievement to communities across this Nation and throughout the world.

Tragically, the Turkish Government has refused to acknowledge the Armenian genocide and has made repeated attempts to exonerate itself of any wrongdoing through a shameful propaganda campaign. The victims of the genocide deserve our remembrance and their rightful place in history. It is in the best interests of our Nation and the entire global community to remember the past and learn from these unfortunate events to ensure that they are never repeated.

Earlier this year, the European Union adopted a resolution affirming the Armenian genocide, making it one of the many official bodies, including the Governments of Canada, Argentina, France, Italy, Sweden and Belgium, to do so. Now more than ever, the genocide underscores our responsibility to help convey our cherished tradition of respect for fundamental human rights and opposition to such heinous atrocities. Only through such recognition can the Armenian people hope to feel some measure of compensation for the ultimate injustice perpetrated against their Nation.

As a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues and an ardent supporter of Rhode Island's Armenian American community, I will continue to encourage my colleagues to hold the Turkish Government accountable for its actions and to honor the memory of those Armenians who suffered and perished nearly a century ago.

COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in speaking about the genocide, a genocide, unfortunately, that has not been acknowledged by some and, unfortunately, heightens the risk of its repetition. The massacre of Armenians in Turkey during and after World War I is recorded as the first State-ordered genocide against a minority group in the 20th century. Tragically, Mr. Speaker, it was not, as we all know, the last.

In the 87 years since this unspeakable tragedy, the world has witnessed dec-

ades of genocide and ethnic cleansing and wholesale persecution of people simply because of who they are: European Jews, Bosnian Muslims, the Tutsis of Rwanda, Kosovar Albanians, and others.

Mr. Speaker, we undertake this year's commemoration of the Armenian genocide in a world that is forever changed as we reflect on the terrible events of September 11. We understand that confronting irrational hatred and the evil which kindles it remains a constant challenge for us all.

Mr. Speaker, there are those who deny that there was an Armenian genocide, yet there is, of course, no lack of documentation of what occurred during that terrible time. In her powerful new book, *A Problem From Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*, author Samantha Powers points out that *The New York Times* gave the Turkish horrors steady coverage, publishing 145 stories in 1915 alone. According to Powers, beginning in March 1915, the paper spoke of Turkish "massacres," "slaughter," and "atrocities" against the Armenians, relaying accounts by missionaries, Red Cross officials, local religious authorities, and survivors of mass executions.

The U.S. Ambassador to Turkey at that time, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., cabled Washington on July 10, 1950 stating, "Persecution of Armenians assuming unprecedented proportions. Reports from widely scattered districts indicate systematic attempt to uproot peaceful Armenian populations and through arbitrary arrests, terrible tortures, wholesale expulsions, and deportations from one end of the empire to the other, accompanied by frequent instances of rape, pillage, and murder, turning into massacre, to bring destruction and destitution on them." The tragedy, Mr. Speaker, is that similar language could have been applied during the 1990s in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Speaker, those reports came to us, and the West did little. The West did little until the middle of the 1990s and, when we acted, the killing and carnage stopped. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, at that time in 1915, no action, no action was taken to try to save the Armenians because their plight was deemed to be an "internal affair" of their government.

Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of having chaired for 10 years the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, otherwise known as the Helsinki Commission. It oversees the implementation of the Helsinki Final Act, signed August 1, 1975 in Helsinki, Finland. That act, post-genocide of the 1930s and 1940s, adopted the premise that a nation's mistreatment of its own citizens would never be again an internal affair. To that extent, Mr. Speaker, the international community has, in fact, adopted the premise that we are our brothers' and our sisters' keepers.